

"Prospect House" (Gen. James ^LWingan House)
3508 Prospect Street, N.W.
(Georgetown)
Washington
District of Columbia

HABS No. DC-210

HABS,
DC,
GEO,
146-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

"PROSPECT HOUSE"
(General James Lingan House)

HABS,
DC,
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146-

Location: 3508 Prospect Street, N.W. (Georgetown), Washington, D.C.

Present Owner and Occupant: Mrs. Patricia Firestone Chatham. (1969)

Present Use: Private residence. (1969)

Significance: This is one of the few free-standing, late eighteenth century mansions remaining in the western part of Georgetown. Pre-dating the establishment of the nearby Federal City, it has been occupied from the time of its erection by several prominent families. The name comes from the views made possible by its setting on a hill above the Potomac River.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: ca. 1788-1793. In 1788, General James Lingan bought the lots on which Prospect House stands for 250 pounds "current money". In 1793, he sold the property with improvements for 1450 pounds. The difference in price indicates that the house was built sometime between these two sales.
2. Architect: None known.
3. Original and subsequent owners: The building is located in Square 1203, Lots 802, 803 and 805 in Washington D.C. (formerly Square 33, Lots 30 and 31 and parts of Lots 20 and 21 in Peter, Beatty, Threlkeld and Deakins Addition to Georgetown). Its former address was 115 Prospect Street. The following is an incomplete chain of title to the land on which the structure stands. Reference is to the office of the Recorder of Deeds, Washington, D.C.

1788 William Deakins, Jr. of Montgomery County and State of Maryland to James Maccubbin Lingan, of the same County and State of the other part.

Lots 30 and 31 Consideration - 250 pounds

Deed November 22, 1788. Recorded November 22, 1788
Liber D-4, folio 148 Land Records
Montgomery County, Maryland

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- 1793 James Maccubbin Lingan, of George Towne to John Templeman, Esquire, of Boston.

Deed March 29, 1793. Recorded March 29, 1793 Liber A-1, folio 200

Lots 30 and 31 "...together with all the Houses, improvements, privileges and advantages thereto or thereon."
Consideration - 1450 pounds
- 1794 William Deakins, Jr. and wife, Jane to John Templeman

Deed July 26, 1794. Recorded July 27, 1794 Liber B-2, folio 64.

Lots 20 and 21, Consideration - 372 pounds
- 1801 John Templeman to William Marbury, Naval Agent of U.S.

Deed in Trust January 1, 1801. Recorded January 26, 1801 Liber F-6, folio 183

"...to secure performance of a certain contract made by said Templeman and Edward McCarthy."
- 1805 William Marbury, Naval Agent of U.S. to John Templeman.
Release of Trust January 1, 1801. Recorded April 22, 1805. Liber M-12, folio 275

"...to deliver at the Navy Yard a certain quantity of Ship Timber...that the said John Templeman for the better securing the performance of every part of said Contract and for the sum of fifteen thousand dollars to them advanced and paid on account of the said Contract shall execute a Deed of Conveyance of the Real Property of the said John Templeman in George Town..."
- 1807 John Templeman and wife, Mahitable to Walter Smith, Tr., Cashier, Bank of The United States.

Deed in Trust March 5, 1807. Recorded November 28, 1807. Liber S-18, folio 349.

Lots 20, 21, 30 and 31. "...to secure debt to Bank of Columbia...Upon which said lots is the dwelling of the said Templeman and now in the occupation of Washington Bowie.

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- 1809 John Templeman and wife, Mahitable to Walter Smith,
Tr., Cashier, Bank of The United States.

Deed of Trust March 31, 1809. Recorded April 9,
1810. Liber Y-24, folio 121.

Lots 20, 21, 30 and 31. "...to hold in trust and
in default to sell and pay debts."

- 1825 Walter Smith, Tr., John Threlkeld, Nathaniel Frye,
Jr., President, Bank of Columbia to Richard Smith,
Tr. Cashier of Bank of The United States.

Trust December 14, 1825. Recorded December 30, 1825
Liber W.B. 14, folio 451.

Lots 20, 21, 30 and 31. "...fronting 120 feet on
Bridge Street, 244 feet on Fayette Street, and
120 feet on Prospect Street, with brick dwelling
houses and stable."

- 1838 Bank of The United States to Richard Smith, Tr.
Cashier of bank of the United States.

Deed in Trust January 29, 1838. Recorded March 8,
1838. Liber W.B. 67, folio 48.

"In trust...to sell and convey."

- 1845 Richard Smith, Tr. Cashier of Bank of the United
States William L. Nicholls to John Miller, tr., under
deed from John Templeman September 22, 1839.

Deed August 9, 1839. Recorded May 13, 1845. Liber
W.B. 116, folio 222.

"Together with the two story brick house and
other buildings."

- 1858 Charles S. Wallach, Tr. to Thomas T. Mann

Deed April 15, 1858. Recorded April 22, 1858. Liber
JAS 153, folio 140.

Charles S. Wallach was appointed trustee under
Decree in equity (May 26, 1856), Richard W.
Templeman and Annie W. Templeman vs. John Miller
and Mary Templeman et al, widow and heirs-at-law
of George Templeman, deceased.

Property sold October 9, 1856 for \$4925.

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- 1860 Thomas T. Mann and wife, Henrietta to William C. Templeton.

Deed September 11, 1860. Recorded September 12, 1860. Liber JAS 193, folio 450.
- 1861 William C. Templeton and wife, Eliza to William H. Whiton.

Deed December 24, 1861. Recorded February 15, 1862. Liber JAS 217, folio 6.
- 1864 William C. Templeton and wife, Eliza to William H. Whiton.

Deed July 26, 1864. Recorded October 10, 1864. Liber NCT 47, folio 277.
- 1868 William H. Whiton and wife, Sarah to Annie E. Steele (wife of Franklin Steele)

Deed June 10, 1868. Recorded July 14, 1868. Liber D-11, folio 320.
- 1881 Annie E. Steele died intestate January 21, 1881, leaving eight surviving children:
Mary C. Morris, widow of George U.
Katherine B. Steele
Rosa P. Vincent, wife of Charles
Frances McCauley, wife of Edward
Sarah S. Wiltse, wife of Gilbert C.
Caroline H. Addison, wife of Arthur
Franklin Steele
William E. Steele
- 1882 Sarah S. Wiltse et vir Gilbert C. to Mary C. Morris.

Deed August 16, 1882. Recorded April 5, 1883. Liber 1033, folio 333.

"1/8 interest in the property"

Frances McCauley et vir Edward to Mary C. Morris.

Deed December 6, 1882. Recorded April 5, 1883. Liber 1033, folio 334.

"1/8 interest in the property"

Franklin Steele et ux Kathleen E. to Mary C. Morris.

Deed February 19, 1882. Recorded April 5, 1883.
Liber 1033, folio 336.

"1/8 interest in the property"

1885 William E. Steele et ux Jessie T. to Mary C. Morris.

Deed March 13, 1885. Recorded April 2, 1886. Liber
1178, folio 24.

"1/8 interest in the property"

Rosa P. Vincent to Mary C. Morris.

Deed June 3, 1885. Recorded April 2, 1886. Liber
1178, folio 26.

"1/8 interest in the property"

1886 Katherine B. Steele Appleoy et vir George F. to Mary
C. Morris.

Deed October 7, 1886. Recorded October 16, 1886.
Liber 1345, folio 150.

"1/8 interest in the property"

Mary C. Morris now has 7/8 interest in the
property and Caroline H. Addison, wife of Arthur
D. Addison, has 1/8 interest.

1930 Mary C. Morris died June 25, 1930, leaving her share
(7/8) of the property to the First Spiritualist
Church of Washington, D.C.

Will July 20, 1926. Probated May 21, 1931. Will
Book 171, page 98.

1931 Trustees of the First Spiritualist Church of
Washington, D.C. to Caroline H. Addison.

Deed June 10, 1931. Recorded June 13, 1931. Liber
6566, folio 433.

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- 1934 American Security and Trust Co., Administrator of Estate of Mary C. Morris and Caroline H. Addison to Edward McCauley, Jr. et ux Jean Oliver, joint tenants. Deed May 16, 1934. Recorded May 18, 1934 Liber 6797, folio 264.
Consideration - \$27,000
- 1942 Edward McCauley and wife, Jean Oliver, tenants by entirety to Sidney A. Mitchell. Deed October 30, 1942. Recorded November 4, 1942. Liber 7808, folio 17.
- 1945 Sidney A. Mitchell and wife, Mary Addison to Josephine Ogden Forrestal. Deed February 15, 1945. Recorded February 23, 1945. Liber 8073, folio 451.
- 1951 Josephine Ogden Forrestal to Bladen J. Darneille, Vice Pres. of Maryland Trust Co. of Baltimore. Deed July 3, 1951. Recorded July 11, 1951. Liber 9509, folio 331.

4. Alterations and additions: In August 1861 the Evening Star reported the completion of "...the elaborate addition and octagonal protuberance, in other words, a gazebo..." behind the building. Reportedly, the roofline was raised to a squarish shape during the 1850s, and later returned to a pitched roof. (Mitchell). A bay window on the east side and a veranda on the rear wing were added. The house was extensively renovated during the ownership of Captain McCauley in 1934 under the supervision of architect James W. Adams. (The Evening Star, 1935). The house was again restored in 1951, when it was bought by Mr. and Mrs. Thurmond Chatham. The service wing to the west appears to have been built in the 1930s or 1940s. Modern heating and plumbing have been unobtrusively installed.

B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:

James Maccubbin Lingan was born May 31, 1751 in Frederick County, Maryland. He was related to the famous Carroll family of Maryland through his mother. He arrived in Georgetown as a young man and immediately entered a tobacco warehouse business owned by a relative.

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In 1776 he was commissioned a lieutenant in the Continental Army. He was wounded by a Hessian bayonet in the Battle of Long Island, captured by the British at Fort Washington on November 16, 1776, and taken aboard the Jersey, an infamous prison ship, commonly called the "Hell."

At the conclusion of the war Lingan, now a general, returned to Georgetown where he became a prominent merchant and a distinguished member of local society. He invested in land in various parts of Georgetown and in Washington. In an offer to President Washington, dated October 13, 1790, a number of Georgetown's leading citizens, Lingan among them, agreed "...to sell on such terms as the President may determine to be reasonable, any of the lands owned by them in the vicinity of Georgetown." On October 1, 1790, President Washington appointed Lingan Collector of the Port of Georgetown. He was also one of Georgetown's aldermen; one of the first incorporators of the Bank of Columbia; and an incorporator of the Georgetown Mutual Insurance Company. In 1801 President Adams appointed Lingan a U.S. Marshal. (History of the National Capital; Records of the Columbia Historical Society)

In later years he moved from Georgetown to the "Federal City," building a house on what is now 19th Street, N.W., between M and N Streets. Lingan met a violent death when, during the War of 1812, a newspaper in which he held interest published an anti-war editorial. In response, an angry mob attacked the publication office in Baltimore and Lingan was stoned to death. He was honored by a stately funeral in Georgetown in July of 1812. (Genealogical Papers; Pidgely; Records of the Society of Cincinnati of Maryland). It is interesting to note that 36th Street in Georgetown was formerly called Lingan Street.

John Templeman, the second owner of Prospect House, was an eminent member of the Georgetown community. He was at one time president of the Bank of Columbia and played an important role in numerous civic projects, among them the completion of the Georgetown bridge over the Potomac (Centinel of Liberty).

Tax assessment records in the early nineteenth century assess John Templeman for his "Lot with dwelling House where he lives to the river including the brick warehouse" at \$12,000, as well as 8 slaves and other valuable property.

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In addition to other business enterprises, Templeman ran a store which advertised "Whiskey, Firkin Butter, Linseed Oil and Flour." (Times-Herald) Early land records show that he often used Prospect House as collateral to secure his various debts. In 1801 his "...real property...in George Town" was used "...to secure performance of a certain contract..to deliver at the Navy Yard a certain quantity of Ship timber...." In 1807 a mortgage "...to secure a debt to the Bank of Columbia..." mentions that Prospect House was then "...in the occupation of Washington Bowie..." who was described by the Annapolis Gazette in 1810 as "...one of the wealthiest and most public-spirited citizens of George Town..." Bowie was considered a "merchant prince" among shipping merchants, and his firm of Bowie and Kurtz was prominent broad. He was vestryman of St. John's Church in Georgetown and a director of the Bank of Columbia. (National Intelligencer)

John Templeman's wife and descendants continued to own Prospect House until 1858 when it was sold for a little less than \$5000 to Thomas T. Mann, who is listed in the City Directory of that year as a medical doctor living at 115 Prospect Street.

Dr. Mann held the property for only two years before selling it to William Templeton. A year later, in December of 1861, William H. Whiton, an employee in the War Department's Office of Military Railways, bought Prospect House from Templeton.

During the Civil War General Whiton shared the house with General D.C. McCallum, who, like Whiton, was a railway and bridge engineer in the Union Army. They were also together in the final year of the war "...with Sherman on his march through Atlanta to the sea..." (Mitchell). The property was sold in 1868 to the Steele family, whose members and descendants remained in possession of the house until 1942.

Franklin Steele, a local merchant, and his wife, Annie, had eight children. She was a granddaughter of Commodore Joshua Barney, an outstanding naval officer in both the American revolution and the War of 1812. Their daughter, Mary Chase Steele, married George Upham Morris, another noted naval officer who, when only a lieutenant, was left in charge of the ill-fated Cumberland during its bloody battle with the Confederate ironclad Merrimac. (Maclay).

After her husband's death in 1875 Mary Steele Morris continued to live at Prospect House, having acquired a seven-eighths interest in it from her brothers and sisters after her mother died intestate in 1881. Mrs. Morris was known in the neighborhood as

an ardent spiritualist and legend has it that "...she invoked the shades of many departed relatives and friends during her lifetime..." Rider's Washington: A Guide Book for Travelers, dated 1924, comments that the "...stately Steele-Morris House was fast going to decay...." Mrs. Morris attributed this in part to the construction activities for the Capital Traction Company's new building, which were weakening the foundation of her house and causing it to collapse. (Promenade Magazine). Mrs. Morris willed her share of the property to the First Spiritualist Church of Washington, D.C. Prospect House was soon restored to the Steele-Morris family, however, through Mrs. Morris' nephew, Capt. Edward B. McCauley (the son of Frances Steele McCauley).

Capt. McCauley and his wife gained full ownership in 1934 and immediately started extensive renovation of the house with the help of architect James W. Adams. (The Evening Star).

Capt. McCauley, who served with the Maritime Commission, was a prominent figure in Washington society, and he and his wife "...entertained often and brilliantly at Prospect House..." They are reported to have regaled their guests "...with the latest stories of the ghost who walked in their house. 'The ghost, if there is one, is my aunt,' Capt. McCauley once observed. 'This was her home for many years. She has my permission to make a return visit any time she pleases.'" (MacLay).

In 1942 the McCauleys moved from Washington and sold the house to Sidney A. Mitchell, a New York investment banker who came to serve with the Federal government during World War II.

In 1945 Mr. Mitchell returned to New York and the house was purchased by Mrs. Josephine Ogden Forrestal, wife of the Honorable James E. Forrestal, then Secretary of the Navy and later the first Secretary of Defense. After his tragic death on May 12, 1949, the house was leased from Mrs. Forrestal by the U.S. Government for use by the Department of State as a "guest house" for foreign dignitaries, while President and Mrs. Truman occupied Blair House.

From 1949 to 1951 this great house once again welcomed distinguished and eminent men, among them the Shah of Iran, the President of France, M. Vincent Auriol, and several presidents of South American countries. (Washington Post; Who's Who in America).

On June 11, 1950, the Washington Times-Herald accused the State Department of staging "propaganda parties" at Prospect House "at the taxpayers expense" "to 'soften up' Congress." "For many weeks," the reporter, Willard Edwards, stated:

"Secretary Acheson and a corps of assistant secretaries have been ...inviting groups of senators and representatives to drink and make merry in one of the capital's show places. The public pays the bill for these entertainments.... Despite the fact that scores of congressmen and their secretaries have attended the weekly parties, they remained a dark secret. The gatherings had a faint resemblance to stag entertainments 'for men only', featuring liquor and feminine companionship as well as honeyed words from back-slapping diplomats. Most Congressmen, it seemed, were shame-faced about their attendance."

The reporter continued on harshly that some of the congressional guests would demand an inquiry into "...this use of government money to propagandize Congress..." Nevertheless, Prospect House itself received enormous praise:

"...[it] occupies one of the most picturesque sites in Washington. A huge, three-story structure, it sits on the Georgetown bluffs overlooking the Potomac. It has great lawns and gardens, is famous for its flower beds, has a butler and staff, and is famous for what the society editors call 'elegant entertainment.'"

In 1951 Mrs. Forrestal sold Prospect House to the Honorable Thurmond Chatham, a member of Congress from North Carolina. He and Mrs. Chatham, the former Patricia Firestone of York County, Pennsylvania, handsomely and carefully restored the house and grounds.

C. Bibliography:

1. Primary and unpublished sources:

Genealogical Papers - James Maccubbin Lingan. Washington, D.C.: Records of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Records of the Society of the Cincinnati of Maryland, Baltimore, Maryland.

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2. Secondary and published sources:

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Ridgely, Helen W., Historic Graves of Maryland and the District of Columbia. New York, New York: Grafton Press, 1908, pp. 250-251.

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Prepared by Volunteers for the
Commission of Fine Arts
Washington, D.C.
1969

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Prospect House is a late eighteenth century Georgian mansion. It is a brick free-standing town house with gable roof, shutters, dormers, and excellent details.
2. Condition of fabric: The house, furnishings and gardens are meticulously maintained and kept in the spirit of the late eighteenth century.

B. Description of Exterior

1. Over-all dimensions: Main house is approximately 35' (three bays wide) and 40' deep. The rear wing is approximately 25' wide and 50' deep. The west service wing is about 30' wide and 25' deep. Main house is two-and-a-half stories high with a partially exposed basement. The rear wing is two stories high with an exposed basement. The west service wing has three low stories exposed.
2. Foundations: The main house has random rubble stone foundations which are exposed to about 4' above grade. Remaining foundations are brick.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: All walls are red brick with the rear wing stuccoed over and the top few feet of the west service wing covered in wood. The brickwork on the main house is of a very fine quality with a belt course between the first and second floors and a molded brick water table at the first floor level. Lintels are shaped brick with flat arches. Walls appear to be in original condition except for the addition of a bay window in the east side of the first floor.
4. Porches: The front entry porch is of delicate ornamental ironwork with nine risers and a wooden floor. There is a veranda that runs the length of the side of the rear wing which serves as the basement porch. This was added to the original house, and is ornamented with cast iron from New Orleans.

5. Chimneys: The main house has a pair of twin chimneys on each end with brick connector walls. Those at the east end of the house appear to be original and function with the fireplaces in the main rooms. These are flush with the exterior wall. Those on the west end protrude beyond the wall and function with internal mechanical and service circulation and may have been added later. There is a chimney on the west wall of the rear wing, serving the fireplaces in the rooms there.
6. Openings: The house has a variety of openings. All are trimmed in wood with brick lintels, stone sills and wood sash and doors.
 - a. Doorways and doors: The main entrance door is on the right hand bay of the front of the main house. This has a large six panel wooden door set in a paneled recess with a round arched top and a semi-circular leaded glass fanlight. The opening is trimmed with reeded pilasters and a wooden pediment. The sides and rear of the house have a variety of glazed single and French doors leading to the garden veranda. Few of these are original. The service wing to the west appears to have been built in the 1930s or 1940s, and has a row of openings in the masonry across the front, two of which are garage doors and the third matching opening is similar but blocked. The garage has panelled overhead wood doors.
 - b. Windows and shutters: Most windows have six-over-six-light double hung wooden sash and louvered shutters. On the east side of the main house is a large circular bay window which was added in the 1930s. This has a curved and painted standing seam metal roof. The first floor level of the south wall of the rear wing has a semi-circular topped window. This form is repeated in the front dormers and on the west side of the main house.
7. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: Gable roof, slate shingles.
 - b. Framing: Wood.
 - c. Cornice, eaves: Wood cornice molding about 14" deep with dentil work.

- d. Dormers: Three gable roofed dormers on the front of the main house with arch topped windows and side pilasters. Windows have delicate wooden tracery. Sides of front dormers are slate shingled the same as roof. Front of west service wing has three partial dormers with very plain pseudo-colonial details. The rear of the main house has three dormers of a much simpler type but similar size to those in the front.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans:

- a. Basement: The basement of the house contains several formal rooms and is on grade at the rear and sides of the house. The main circulation here is from a duplicate of the square hall above which connects a large library to the rear, an office to the front, and services to the side. The west service wing has garages on the basement level. The library is reputed to have been the original kitchen and is linked to the dining room above with a dumb-waiter. The present kitchen is in the west wing which apparently dates from the 1930s.
- b. First floor: The first floor has a main entry-stair hall on its right (west) side which continues to the rear wing of the house. The entire remainder of the main house first floor is a large drawing room. This was once two rooms, but was made into one probably in the 1930s when the bay window was added. To the rear of the main house and connecting onto the main hall is a square hall with a stair to the basement and entrance to the large dining room which occupies most of the rear wing.
- c. Second floor: The second level of the west service wing connects from the dining room and the square rear hall. This area contains the kitchen and other services. The second floor of the main house contains a master bedroom in the front and a sitting room to the rear, both along the side stair hall. These have auxiliary bath, dressing and storage area. The rear wing contains a master guest suite with a large bedroom, bath, and storage facilities. The top floor of the service unit is below the main second floor. This contains five rooms and a bath.

- d. Third floor: The third floor of the main house has a side stair hall with front and rear bedrooms and a bath at the head or front of the hall.
2. Stairways: Main stairway runs from the first floor to the third floor in a U-shape with half way landings. The stair is wood with a curving wood banister and ornamental turned balusters. There is scrollwork on the ends of the steps. A stair goes from the rear square hall on the first floor to its twin below and thence to the formal rooms on that level. This stair is a simplified version of the main stair. There is a narrow service stair running up between the main house and the west service wing.
3. Flooring: The floors are all pine random width ranging from three to five inches in width and stained dark.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Smooth plaster.
5. Doorways and doors: Simple elegantly proportioned wood doors and frames. There is a variety of doors, but most are six panel and have small brass knobs.
6. Decorative features and trim: The house has simple yet strong elegant Georgian trim throughout. The entry-stair hall has simple small moldings that are emphasized by the handsome proportions of the space. The cornice molding is plaster.

The drawing room has elegant trim that is the most ornate in the house. There is a deep cornice with dentils and a simple base mold. Door and window moldings are similar to those throughout the house. The drawing room has a pair of large wood mantels with a little applied ornament and reeded pilasters. The facings and hearths are polished black slate.

The dining room has a large scale wood mantel in a similar style to those of the drawing room. The dining room has a simple cornice, baseboard and chair rail.

The second floor main house bedroom and sitting room have white carved marble arched mantels. The second floor master guest room over the dining room has a wooden mantel with side pilasters.

The third floor front bedroom has a white carved marble arched mantel. The interiors of the front dormers are barrel vaulted. The rear bedroom has a wood mantel with reeded pilasters on the sides and a shelf.

The library in the basement has simple base and cornice moldings. Most walls are covered with unornamented book shelves. The library has a wooden mantel with side pilasters and a shelf.

7. Hardware: Most doors equipped with small brass knobs. Front door equipped with a heavy knocker.
8. Mechanical equipment:
 - a. Heating and plumbing: A mixture of mid-twentieth century conveniences.
 - b. Lighting: A variety of mid-twentieth century electric fixtures throughout the house. The chandelier in the drawing room is a nineteenth-century crystal work of art that is sufficiently large for this room. The chandelier holds candles and is not electrified.

D. Site

1. General setting and orientation: The house faces north toward Prospect Street, and is free-standing. The site slopes down to the rear toward the Potomac River. The house has a primarily residential neighborhood to its east and the top of the D.C. Transit Building to the west. Portions of the old Georgetown University Hospital are across the street.
2. Enclosures: The house has a variety of wooden fences and brick walls and retaining walls around it. The main garden is to the east and south (rear) of the house. These are all enclosed.
3. Walks: The front entrance to the house is connected directly to the public sidewalk. The gardens have a series of brick paved sitting areas and formal walks with retaining walls and stairs. Much of this was done in the early 1950s. The west service wing has garages and between these and the street is a small parking court and drive.

4. Landscape: The side and rear gardens are for the most part formal with walks, boxwood, and shade trees. Along the retaining walls are a variety of fruit trees on an espalier. There are large trees on the street at the front and at the side of the house.
5. Outbuildings: Not too many feet to the rear of the house is a small two floor octagonal tower. The building is Georgian with features and trim similar to the main house. Well down the hill and at the extreme rear of the property, on M Street, is a small house that may have been an outbuilding for the house.

Prepared by: Donald B. Myer
Commission of Fine Arts
July 21, 1967

PART II. PROJECT INFORMATION

These records were prepared as part of a project to record structures in the western part of the Georgetown Historic District in Washington, D.C. The project was conducted by the Commission of Fine Arts with the cooperation of the Historic American Buildings Survey. The resulting documentation was donated to HABS by the Commission and published in 1970 in HABS Selection Number 6, "Georgetown Architecture Northwest: Northwest Washington, District of Columbia". Research for the project was conducted by volunteers under the supervision of Ms. Nancy Black, staff member of the Commission of Fine Arts. Architectural information was prepared by Donald B. Myer of the Commission of Fine arts. The photographs were taken by J. Alexander. The data was edited and prepared for transmittal to the Library of Congress by HABS architectural historian Emily J. Harris in 1979.

ADDENDUM TO:
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(General James Lingen House)
Georgetown
3508 Prospect Street, Northwest
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District of Columbia

HABS DC-210
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PHOTOGRAPHS

PAPER COPIES OF COLOR TRANSPARENCIES

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

FIELD RECORDS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240-0001

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

PROSPECT HOUSE
(General James Lingan House)

This report is an addendum to a 17 page report previously transmitted to the Library of Congress in 1979.

Location: 3508 Prospect Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.

Present Owner: Lancer Corporation

Present Use: Private residence

Significance: One of the few free-standing, late eighteenth-century mansions remaining in the western part of Georgetown, it is an exemplary example of Federal period architecture. Pre-dating the establishment of the nearby Federal City, it has been occupied by several prominent families. The name comes from the views made possible by its setting on a hill above the Potomac River. With its large, sylvan side yard and gazebo, Prospect House still hints at the splendid setting and outstanding view towards the Potomac that the house enjoyed until the late nineteenth century.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: ca. 1788-1793. In 1788, General James Lingan bought the lots on which Prospect House stands for 250 pounds "Current money". In 1793, he sold the property with improvements for 1450 Pounds. The difference in price indicates that the house was built sometime between these two sales.

2. Architect: None known.

3. Original and subsequent owners: The building is located in Square 1203, Lots 802, 803 and 805 in Washington D.C. (formerly Square 33, Lots 30 and 31 and Parts of Lots 20 and 21 in Peter, Beatty, Threlkeld and Deakins Addition to Georgetown) . Its former address was 115 Prospect Street. The following is an incomplete chain of title to the land on which the structure stands. Reference is to the office of the Recorder of Deeds, Washington, D.C.

1788 Deed (Liber D-4, folio 148) Land Records ,Montgomery County, Maryland
William Deakins, Jr., of Montgomery County and State of Maryland

To
James Maccubbin Ligan, of the same County and State of the other part.

Lots 30 and 31, Consideration - 250 Pounds

- 1793 Deed (Liber A-1, folio 200)
James Maccubbin Ligan, of George Towne
To
John Templeman, Esquire, of Boston.

Lots 30 and 31 "...together with all the Houses, improvements, privileges and advantages thereto or thereon"; Consideration - 1450 pounds

- 1794 Deed (Liber B-2, folio 64)
William Deakins, Jr., and wife, Jane
To
John Templeman.

Lots 20 and 21, Consideration - 372 pounds

- 1801 Deed in Trust (Liber F-6, folio 183)
John Templeman
To
William Marbury, Naval Agent of U.S.

"...to secure performance of a certain contract made by said Templeman and Edward McCarthy."

- 1805 Release of Trust (Liber M-12, folio 275)
William Marbury, Naval Agent of U.S.
To
John Templeman.

"...to deliver at the Navy 'Yard a certain quantity of Ship Timber ... that the said John Templeman for the better securing the performance of every part of said Contract and for the sum of " fifteen thousand dollars to them advanced and oaid on account of the said Contract shall execute a Deed of Conveyance of the Real Property of the said John Templeman in George Town..."

- 1807 Deed in Trust (Liber S-18, folio 349)
John Templeman and wife, Mahitable
To

Walter Smith, Tr., Cashier, Bank of The United States.

Lots 20, 21, 30 and 31, "...to secure debt to Bank of Columbia...Upon which said lots is the dwelling of the said Templeman and now in the occupation of Washington Bowie.

- 1809 Deed of Trust March 31, 1809. Recorded April 9, 1810. Liber Y-24, folio 121.
John Templeman and wife, Mahitable
To
Walter Smith, Tr., Cashier, Bank of The United States.

Lots 20, 21, 30 and 31. "...to hold in trust and in default to sell and pay debts."

- 1825 Trust December 14, 1825. Recorded December 30, 1825 Liber W.B. 14, folio 451.
Walter Smith, Tr., John Threlkeld, Nathaniel Frye, Jr., President, Bank of Columbia
To
Richard Smith, Tr. Cashier of Bank of The United States.

Lots 20, 21, 30 and 31. " - - - fronting 120 feet on Bridge Street, 244 feet on Fayette Street, and 120 feet on Prospect Street, with brick dwelling houses and stable."

- 1838 Deed in Trust January 29, 1838. Recorded March 8, 1838. Liber W.B.67, folio 48
Bank of The United States
To
Richard Smith, Tr., Cashier of Bank of the United States.

- 1845 Deed August 9, 1839. Recorded May 13, 1845. Liber W.B. L16, folio 222.
Richard Smith, Tr. Cashier of Bank of the United States, William L. Nicholls
To
John Miller, Tr., under deed from John Templeman September 22, 1839.

"Together with the two story brick house and other buildings."

- 1858 Deed April 15, 1858. Recorded April 22, 1853. Liber JAS 153, folio 140.
Charles S. Wallach, Tr.
To
Thomas T. Mann.

Charles S. Wallach was appointed trustee under Decree in -equity (May 26,

1856), Richard W. Templeman and Annie W. Templeman vs. John Miller and Mary Templeman et al, widow and heirs-at-law of George Ten-pleman, deceased.

Property sold October 9, 1856 for \$4925.

- 1860 Deed September 11, 1860. (Liber JAS 193, folio 450)
Thomas T. Mann and wife, Henrietta
To
William C. Templeton.
- 1861 Deed (Liber JAS 217, folio 6)
William C. Templeton and wife, Eliza
To
William H. Whiton.
- 1864 Deed (Liber DCT 47, folio 277)
William C. Templeton and wife, Eliza
To
William H. Whiton.
- 1868 Deed (Liber D-11, folio 320)
William H. Whiton and wife, Sarah
To
Annie E. Steele (wife of Franklin Steele).
- 1881 Annie E. Steele died intestate January 21, 1881, leaving eight surviving children:
Mary C. Morris, widow of George U.; Katherine B. Steele; Rosa P. Vincent, wife
of Charles; Frances McCauley, wife of Edward; Sarah S. Witse, wife of Gilbert
C.; Caroline H. Addison, wife of Arthur; Franklin Steele; and William E. Steele.
- 1882 Deed (Liber 1033, folio 333)
Sarah S. Wiltse et vir Gilbert C.
To
Mary C. Morris.
- “1/8 interest in the property”
- Deed (Liber 1033, folio 334)
Frances McCauley et vir Edward
To
Mary C. Morris.

“1/8 interest in the property”

Deed (Liber 1033, folio 336)
Franklin Steele et ux Kathleen E.
To
Mary C. Morris.

“1/8 interest in the property”

- 1885 Deed (Liber 1178, folio 24)
William E. Steele et ux Jessie T.
To
Mary C. Morris.

“1/8 interest in the property”

Deed (Liber 1178, folio 26)
Rosa P. Vincent
To
Mary C. Morris.

“1/8 interest in the property”

- 1886 Deed (Liber 1345, folio 150)
Katherine B. Steele Appleoy et vir George F.
To
Mary C. Morris.

“1/8 interest in the property”

Mary C. Morris now has 7/8 interest in the property and Caroline H.
Addison, wife of Arthur D. Addison, has 1/8 interest.

- 1930 Will (Will Book 171, page 98)
Mary C. Morris died June 25, 1930, leaving her share (7/8) of the property
To
The First Spiritualist Church of Washington, D.C.

- 1931 Deed (Liber 6566, folio 433)
Trustees of the First Spiritualist Church of Washington, D.C.
To
Caroline H. Addison.

ADDENDUM TO
PROSPECT HOUSE
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(page 23)

- 1934 Deed (Liber 6797, folio 264)
American Security and Trust Co., administrator of Estate of Mary C. Morris and
Caroline H. Addison
To
Edward McCauley, Jr., et ux Jean Oliver, joint tenants.

Consideration \$27,000
- 1942 Deed (Liber 7808, folio 17)
Edward McCauley and wife, Jean Oliver, tenants by entirety
To
Sidney A. Mitchell.
- 1945 Deed (Liber 8073, folio 451)
Sidney A. Mitchell and wife, Mary Addison
To
Josephine Ogden Forrestal.
- 1951 Deed (Liber 9509, folio 331)
Josephine Ogden Forrestal
To
Bladen J. Darneille, Vice Pres. of Maryland Trust Co. of Baltimore.

Note: the above chain of title taken from the 1967 HABS documentation (edited in 1979).

- 1951 Deed
Mrs. Forrestal
To
Congressman and Mrs. Thurmond Chatham.

Note: the above transaction is not listed in the chain of title in the 1967 HABS documentation, but it is cited on pages 6 and 10 of the same documentation and it is consistent with newspaper accounts.

- 1974 Deed
Walter Chatham, for the estate of his mother, Mrs. Patricia Firestone Chatham
To
Louise Ansberry.
- 1977 Deed
Louise Ansberry
To

David and Carol Ann Shapiro.

1981 David Shapiro
To
Lancer Corp.

4. Alterations and additions: In August 1861 the Evening Star reported the completion of "...the elaborate addition and octagonal protuberance, in other words, a gazebo..." behind the building. Reportedly, the roofline was raised from a gable to a flat shape during the 1850s, and later returned to a pitched roof, according to Georgetown author Mary Mitchell. In the earlier HABS documentation a photocopy of an image from the Library of Congress shows the house with a deep bay window on the east facade, heavy keystone, drip lintels and heavy modillion block cornice, and apparently a flat roof. Also the photograph shows extensively spalling stucco on the front facade. It is assumed, on stylistic traits, that these features are late nineteenth-century alterations of the house. The year 1861 when the house changed ownership seems the likely date for major alterations, including gazebo, east bay window, change to roof line (despite Mitchell's conclusion that it occurred earlier) and addition of drip molding window hoods, removing interior partition between front and rear first floor parlors, and adding marble fireplace surrounds on second floor.

The current bay window on the east side and a verandah on the rear wing were added probably during the extensive renovations during the ownership of Captain McCauley in 1934 under the supervision of architect James W. Adams. (The Evening Star, 1935). The extend of these 1934 renovations is unclear because the permit issued July 31, 1934 for an addition and renovation was marked canceled and a permit with the same number (#173343) for renovation was issued in its stead. It is believed by this researcher (Lebovich) that the garage wing was constructed and the other alterations, such as restoring the gable roof, were carried out in 1934. The house was again restored in 1951, when it was bought by Mr. and Mrs. Thurmond Chatham. Modern heating and plumbing have been unobtrusively installed. The current owner has repainted the interior and added faux marble wainscoting.

B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:

James Maccubbin Lingan was born May 31, 1751 in Frederick County, Maryland. He was related to the famous Carroll family of Maryland through his mother. He arrived in Georgetown as a young man and immediately entered a tobacco warehouse business owned by a relative.

In 1776 he was commissioned a lieutenant in the Continental Army. He was wounded at the Battle of Long Island, captured by the British at Fort Washington on November 16, 1776, and taken aboard the Jersey, an infamous prison ship, commonly called the "Hell."

At the conclusion of the war Lingan, now a general, returned to Georgetown where he became a prominent merchant and a distinguished member of local society. He invested in land in various parts of Georgetown and in Washington. In an offer to President Washington, dated October 13, 1790, a number of Georgetown's leading citizens, Lingan among them, agreed "...to sell on such terms as the President may determine to be reasonable, any of the lands owned by them in the vicinity of Georgetown." On October 1, 1790, President Washington appointed Lingan Collector of the Port of Georgetown. He was also one of Georgetown's aldermen; one of the first incorporators of the Bank of Columbia; and an incorporator of the Georgetown Mutual Insurance Company. In 1801 President Adams appointed Lingan a U.S. Marshal. (History of the National Capital; Records of the Columbia Historical Society)

In later years he moved from Georgetown to the "Federal City," building a house on what is now 19th Street, N.W., between M and N Streets. Lingan met a violent death when, during the War of 1812, a newspaper in which he held interest published an anti-war editorial. In response, an angry mob attacked the publication office in Baltimore and Lingan was stoned to death while trying to defend the newspaper's publisher. He was honored by a stately funeral in Georgetown in July of 1812. (Genealogical Papers; Pidgely; Records of the Society of Cincinnati of Maryland) . Thirty-sixth Street in Georgetown was formerly called Lingan Street. Washington Bowie (owner of the Bowie-Sevier House, HABS No. DC-60) named one of his ships in memory of his friend Lingan and he came to own his late friend's home.

John Templeman, the second owner of Prospect House, was an eminent member of the Georgetown community. He was at one time president of the Bank of Columbia and played an important role in numerous civic projects, among them the completion of the Georgetown bridge over the Potomac (Centinel of Liberty).

Tax assessment records in the early nineteenth century assess John Templeman for his "Lot with dwelling House where he lives to the river including the brick warehouse" at \$12,000, as well as eight slaves and other valuable property.

In addition to other business enterprises, Templeman ran a store which advertised "Whiskey, Firkin Butter, Linseed Oil and Flour." (Times-Herald) Early land records show that he often used Prospect House as collateral to secure his various debts. mentions that Prospect House was then "...in the occupation of Washington Bowie..." who was described by the Annapolis Gazette in 1810 as "...one of the wealthiest and most public-spirited citizens of George Town..." Bowie was considered a "merchant prince" among shipping merchants, and his firm of Bowie and Kurtz was prominent broad. He was vestryman of St. John's Church in Georgetown and a director of the Bank of Columbia.(National Intelligencer)

John Templeman's wife and descendants continued to own Prospect House until 1858 when it was sold for a little less than \$5000 to Thomas T. Mann, who is listed in the City Directory of that year as a medical doctor living at Prospect Street.

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Dr. Mann held the property for only two years before selling it to William Templeton. A year later, in December of 1861, William H. Whiton, an employee in the War Department's Office of Military Railways, bought Prospect House from Templeton.

During the Civil War General Whiton shared the house with General D.C. McCallum, who, like Whiton, was a railway and bridge engineer in the Union Army. They were also together in the final year of the war "...with Sherman on his march through Atlanta to the sea. . . ." (Mitchell) . The property was sold in 1868 to the Steele family, whose members and descendants remained in possession of the house until 1942.

Franklin Steele, a local merchant and his wife, Annie, had eight children. She was a granddaughter of Commodore Joshua Barney, an outstanding naval officer in both the American Revolution and the War of 1812. Their daughter, Mary Chase Steele, married George Upham Morris, another noted naval officer who, when only a lieutenant, was left in charge of the ill-fated Cumberland during its bloody battle with the Confederate ironclad Merrimac. (MacLay).

After her husband's death in 1875, Mary Steele Morris continued to live at Prospect House, having acquired from her siblings 7/8 ownership after her mother died intestate in 1881. The house continued to deteriorate under her ownership, supposedly due to the construction of the adjacent Capital Traction Company's building weakening her house's foundation.

Mrs. Morris, who has been described as an ardent spiritualist (earlier HABS documentation) willed the house to the First Spiritualist Church of Washington, D.C.

But her nephew, Capt. Edward B. McCauley and his wife regained full ownership in 1934 and immediately started extensive renovation of the house with the help of architect James W. Adams. (The Evening Star).

Capt. McCauley, who served with the Maritime Commission, was a prominent figure in Washington society, and he and his wife "...entertained often and brilliantly at Prospect House..." They are reported to have regaled their guests "...with the latest stories of the ghost who walked in their house. "The ghost, if there is one, is my aunt," Capt. McCauley once observed. "This was her home for many years. She has my permission to make a return visit any time she pleases." (McCauley).

In 1942 the McCauleys moved from Washington and sold the house to Sidney A. Mitchell, a New York investment banker who came to serve with the Federal government during World War II.

In 1945 Mr. Mitchell returned to New York and the house was purchased by Mrs. Josephine Ogden Forrestal, wife of the Honorable Jams E. Forrestal, then Secretary of the Navy -and later the first Secretary of Defense. After his suicide by jumping out of a window at

Bethesda Naval Hospital on May 12, 1949, the house was leased from Mrs. Forrestal by the U.S. Government for use by the Department of State as a "guest house" for foreign dignitaries, while President and Mrs. Truman occupied Blair House.

From 1949 to 1951, the house once again welcomed distinguished and eminent men, among them the Shah of Iran, the President of France, M. Vincent Auriol, and several presidents of South American countries. (Washington Post; Who's Who in America).

On June 11, 1950, the 'Washington Times-Herald accused the State Department of staging "propaganda parties" at Prospect House "at the taxpayers expense" "to 'soften up' Congress." "For many weeks," the reporter, Willard Edwards, stated:

Secretary Acheson and a corps of assistant secretaries have been ... inviting groups of senators and representatives to drink and make merry in one of the capital's show Places. The Public Pays the bill for these entertainments.... Despite the fact that scores of congressmen and their secretaries have attended the weekly parties, they remained a dark secret. The gatherings had a faint resemblance to stag entertainments 'for men only', featuring liquor and feminine companionship as well as honeyed words from back -slapping diplomats. Most Congressmen, it seemed, were shame-faced about their attendance.

The reporter continued on harshly that some of the congressional guests would demand an inquiry into "...this use of government money to propagandize Congress..." Nevertheless, Prospect House itself received enormous praise:

...(it) occupies one of the most Picturesque sites in Washington. A huge, three-story structure, it sits on the Georgetown bluffs overlooking the Potomac. it has great lawns and gardens, is famous for its flower beds, has a butler and staff, and is famous for what the society editors call elegant entertainment.

In 1951 Mrs. Forrestal sold Prospect House to the Honorable Thurmond Chatham, a member of Congress from North Carolina. He and Mrs. Chatham, the former Patricia Firestone of York County, Pennsylvania, handsomely and carefully restored the house and grounds. Mrs. Firestone, like many twentieth-century owners of the great houses in Georgetown, was originally from another part of the country and had a substantial amount of family money.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Prospect House is a late eighteenth century Federal Period mansion, with the characteristic dignified flat facade, and classically inspired details such as the front door

surround. It and Halycon House (HABS No. DC-69), because of their elevated location close to the Potomac River, probably better than any other houses in Georgetown, including those on the Heights, reflect the late eighteenth-century relationship between the merchant prince and his ships, warehouses, and piers in the harbor below. That the first and subsequent owners were merchants, and retailers, and real estate speculators of great local importance was stated not only through the size and elegance of the house, but also through its location and the prime real estate down to the harbor that were once part of this parcel.

2. Condition of fabric: The house, furnishings and gardens are meticulously maintained.

B. Description of Exterior

1. Over-all dimensions: Main house is approximately 35' (three bays wide) and 40' deep. The rear wing is approximately 25' wide and 50' deep. The west service wing is about 30' wide and 25' deep. Main house is two-and-a-half stories high with a partially exposed basement. The rear wing is two stories high with an exposed basement. The west service wing, which is a three bay garage with kitchen and bedrooms above, has three low stories exposed.

2. Foundations: The main house has random rubble stone foundations which are exposed to about 4' above grade. Remaining foundations are brick.

3. Walls: All walls are red brick with the rear wing formerly stuccoed over and the top few feet of the west service wing covered in wood. The brickwork on the main house is of a very fine quality with a belt course between the first and second floors and a molded brick water table at the first floor level. Lintels are shaped brick with flat arches. The front facade (both watertable and wall above) are executed in Flemish Bond, while the other walls are common bond. The walls appear to be in original condition except for the addition of a bay window in the east side of the first floor and along the end walls at the roof line where the shape appears altered, and the west facade also has the presumably late exterior chimney. The 1934 garage wing is also made of brick, but done to be compatible with the original. The bricks and coursing, however, are obviously modern.

4. Structural system, framing: The house is of load-bearing masonry construction, presumably with heavy timber framing.

5. Porches: The front entry porch is of delicate ornamental ironwork with nine risers and a wooden floor, cantilevered from the wall and supported by two fluted, iron columns. There is a verandah that runs the length of the side of the rear wing which serves as the basement porch. This was added to the original house, and is ornamented with cast iron supposedly from New Orleans.

6. Chimneys: The main house has a pair of twin chimneys on each end with brick

connector walls. Those at the east end of the house appear to be original and function with the fireplaces in the main rooms. These are flush with the exterior wall. Those on the west end protrude beyond the wall and function with internal mechanical and service circulation and may have been added later, presumably in the 1930s. There is a chimney on the west wall of the rear wing, serving the fireplaces in the rooms there.

7. Openings: The house has a variety of openings. All are trimmed in wood with brick lintels, stone sills and wood sash and doors.

a. Doorways and doors: The main entrance door is on the right hand bay of the front of the main house. This has a large six panel wooden door set in a paneled recess with a round arched top and a semi-circular leaded glass fanlight. The opening is trimmed with reeded pilasters and a wooden dentiled, broken-bed pediment. The sides and rear of the house have a variety of glazed single and French doors leading to the garden verandah. Few of these are original. The service wing to the west was built in the 1930s, and has a row of openings in the masonry across the front, two of which are garage doors and the third matching opening is similar but blocked, and the right side is a door. The garage has paneled overhead wood doors.

b. Windows and shutters: Most windows have six-over-six-light double hung wooden sash and louvered shutters. On the east side of the main house is a large circular bay window which was added in 1930s. This bay window has paired fluted pilasters flanking the windows and recessed panels below the windows. It has a curved and painted standing seam metal roof. The first floor level of the south wall of the rear wing has a semi-circular topped window, repeated in the front dormers and on the west side of the main block.

7. Roof :

a. Shape, covering: Gable roof, slate shingles. As stated above, the roof appears to have been modified in the late nineteenth century and on the west facade there is a change in brick and mortar near the parapet strongly indicating that the current roof line is an attempt to restore what was presumably the original roof line.

b. Cornice, eaves: Wood cornice molding with modillions and below the modillions a row of dentils formed by alternating high and low cutouts along the fascia and soffit of the bed molding.

c. Dormers: Three gable roofed dormers on the front of the main house with arch topped windows and side pilasters. Windows have delicate wooden tracery. The imposts above the pilasters have incised diamond decoration. Sides of front dormers are slate shingled the same as roof. Front of west service wing has three partial dormers with very plain pseudo-colonial details. The rear of the main house has three dormers of a much simpler type but similar size to those in the front.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans:

a. Basement: The basement of the house contains several formal rooms and is on grade at the rear and sides of the house. The main circulation here is from a duplicate of the square hall above which connects a large library to the rear, an office to the front, and services to the side. The west service wing has garages on the basement level. The library is reputed to have been the original kitchen and is linked to the dining room above with a dumb-waiter, but the dumb-waiter dates to 1934. The present kitchen is in the west wing which dates from the 1934.

b. First floor: The first floor has a main entry-stair hall on its right (west) side which continues to the rear wing of the house. The entire remainder of the main house first floor is a large drawing room. This was once two rooms, but was made into one probably in the mid-nineteenth century when the earlier bay window was added. The current bay window is a much smaller twentieth-century replacement. The rear of the entry hall is demarcated by a round arched opening, but as it lacks the detailing, specifically the fluted pilasters, seen in other stair hall arches of this period, it is assumed that this arch dates to the 1934 renovation. Beyond this arch is a square hall with a stair to the basement and entrance to the large dining room which occupies most of the rear wing. It seems likely that these basement stairs were the lower level of a secondary or servant's stairs in this back hall that went from the basement to the upper floors. A house of this size and period would have had a secondary stairs, most often beyond the main stairs.

Stepping up from the square or rear hall, is the dining room and on the same level, is the kitchen in the service wing. These rooms are connected by a doorway at the northwest corner of the dining room.

c. Second floor: "The second floor of the main house contains a master bedroom in the front and a sitting room to the rear, both along the side stair hall. These have auxiliary bath, dressing and storage area. The rear wing contains a master guest suite with a large bedroom, bath, and storage facilities. The rear wing contains a master guest suite with a large bedroom, bath, and storage facilities. The top floor of the service unit is below the main second floor. This contains five rooms and a bath." This description taken from the earlier HABS documentation. The current owner has made the rear bedroom, the master bedroom.

d. Third floor: "The third floor of the main house has a side stair hall with front and rear bedrooms and a bath at the head or front of the hall." This description taken from the earlier HABS documentation.

2. Stairways: Main stairway runs from the first floor to the third floor in a U-shape with half way landings. The stair is wood with a curving wood banister and ornamental turned

balusters. The stringer has an unusual running scroll of two curls, ending in three small convex curves below the riser. On the first floor, the triangular surface defined by the stairs, floor, and end wall is decorated with reeding forming triangles. This same treatment, which probably dates to the 1861 renovation, was also seen at 3035 Dumbarton Avenue (HABS No. DC-827). A stair goes from the rear square hall on the first floor to its twin below and then to the formal rooms on that level. This stair is a simplified version of the main stair. There is a narrow service stair running up between the main house and the west service wing, in the service wing.

3. Flooring: The floors are all pine random width ranging from three to five inches in width and stained dark.

4. Wall and ceiling finish: Smooth plaster.

5. Openings

a. Doorways and doors: Simple elegantly proportioned wood doors and frames. There is a variety of doors, but most are six panel and have small brass knobs. The rear ell has two French doors on the east side and one on the south side.

b. Windows: North facade windows have interior shutters, with alternating sections of vertical louvers and panels. Also, on the second floor, the south window in the main block has interior shutters. The deep window reveals are splayed on the first floor. Otherwise, the windows are without interior shutters. At least two types of window surrounds are used. Those on the first floor are relatively simple and appear to be twentieth century, perhaps dating to the 1934 renovation. By contrast, those on the second floor are a bit more intricate and might be nineteenth century. On the first floor, south wall of the main block, the window has a bottom section which is a paneled jib door, and above it are double hung windows. It appears, based on a whole for a bolt in the header and the recent window stops that this window was once a French door, with splayed paneled reveals. It is speculated that when the French doors were added to the ell in the 1934 renovation, this door was changed to a window/jib door combination.

6. Decorative features and trim: The house has simple yet strong elegant Federal period trim throughout. The entry-stair hall has simple plaster s-curve molding that is consistent with the late eighteenth/ early nineteenth century.

The drawing room has elegant trim, which is the most ornate in the house. There is a deep cornice with dentils and a simple base mold. The bed molding is the same as that on the cornice of the front facade of the house. The cymatium consists of acanthus leaves. Door and window moldings are similar to those throughout the house. The drawing room has a pair of large wood mantels with a little applied ornament and reeded pilasters. The facings and hearths are polished black slate. The edge of the bay window opening is defined by an Aaron's rod molding. The two fireplaces have identical wooden surrounds of paneled pilasters supporting a

frieze decorated with a center panel of fluting capped with two concave curves (side by side). This treatment is repeated in the imposts above the pilasters, with a single concave shape. A row of dentils runs above the frieze. The mantel shelf is straight with blocks at either end.

The dining room has a large scale wood mantel in a similar style to those of the drawing room. The dining room has a simple cornice and baseboard. Despite the simpleness of the cornice and baseboard, the chair rail has pearl molding and dentils, and is consistent with Federal period ornament. The wooden fireplace surround in the dining room has primitive incised stars flanking a central reeded oval, suggesting a poorly executed Federal period revival mantel or a country Federal period mantel.

The second floor main house bedroom and sitting room have white carved marble arched mantels. The second floor master guest room over the dining room has a wooden mantel with side pilasters.

The third floor front bedroom has a white carved marble arched mantel. The interiors of the front dormers are barrel vaulted. The rear bedroom has a wood mantel with reeded pilasters on the sides and a shelf.

The library in the basement has simple base and cornice moldings. Most walls are covered with unornamented book shelves. The library has a wooden mantel with side pilasters and a shelf.

7. Hardware: Most doors equipped with small brass knobs. Front door equipped with a heavy knocker.

8. Mechanical equipment:

a. Heating and plumbing: A mixture of mid-twentieth century conveniences; the house is heated by (central) forced hot air.

D. Site

1. General setting and orientation: The house faces north toward Prospect Street, and is free-standing. The house has a primarily residential neighborhood to its east and the top of the Car Barn building to the west. Diagonally across the street are Georgetown University buildings (once part of the university's hospital). The eastern portion of the parcel is a large, formal garden extending to 35th Street, enclosed by a tall brick wall. At the south end of the garden is a pool running parallel with Prospect Street. Beyond the pool are townhouses (separated by a wall) built in the 1970s on land that was until that time part of this parcel, which once extended south on a steep slope to Canal Road. The earlier HABS documentation dated the paths in the west garden to the 1950s, source unknown. The west side yard, behind the garage or service

wing and separated from the formal east garden by a tall wall, is grass with remnants of a building (poured concrete foundations with steel I-beams cut just above the foundations). This side yard is separated from the car barn parcel by a tall brick wall. The Commission of Fine Art's records show that the property owner, David Shapiro, requested permission to erect garden wall around the eastern garden and erect a wall on the western portion of the parcel. The Commission approved on September 22, 1977 (# O.G. 77-187, 77-141)

2. Historic landscape design: unknown.

3. Outbuildings: To the south of the house and connected by a brick wall, which supports a second story walkway from the house's rear porch to an entrance to this octagonal outbuilding. Local tradition is that this structure was an earlier owner's office, enabling him to watch his ships in the Georgetown harbor. The structure has trim details similar to those on the house and is dated to 1861, according to a contemporary newspaper article (Evening Star, August 1861), cited in the earlier HABS documentation, but not verified by the current researcher.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

These records were prepared as part of a project to record structures in the western part of the Georgetown Historic District in Washington, D.C. This project was conducted by the Commission of Fine Arts with the cooperation of the Historic American Buildings Survey. The resulting documentation was donated to HABS by the Commission and published in 1970 in HABS Selection Number 6, "Georgetown Architecture Northwest: Northwest Washington, District of Columbia". Research for the project was conducted by volunteers under the supervision of Ms. Nancy Black, staff member of the Commission of Fine Arts. Architectural information was prepared by Donald B. Myer of the Commission of Fine Arts. The data was edited for transmittal to the Library of Congress by Emily J. Harris, architectural historian, in 1979. Limited, additional research at the National Archives and the D.C. Public Library was done by Bill Lebovich in May 2000.

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Edited by: William Lebovich, architectural historian, May 2000

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

The Georgetown Documentation Project was sponsored by the Commission of Fine Arts and undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER) of the National Park Service. Principals involved were Charles H. Atherton, Secretary, U.S. Commission of Fine Arts, and E. Blaine Cliver, Chief, HABS/HAER. The documentation was undertaken in two phases. The summer 1998 team was supervised by John P. White, FAIA, Professor of Architecture, Texas Tech University; and architecture

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technicians Robert C. Anderson, Boston Architectural Center; Aimee Charboneau, Tulane University; Irwin J. Gueco, The Catholic University of America; and Adam Maksay, United States/International Council on Monuments and Sites (US/ICOMOS) architect from the Transylvania Trust. Historic research was initiated by Bryan C. Green, historian, Richmond, Virginia, during this summer. The summer 1999 team was supervised by Roger S. Miller, architect, Alexandria, Virginia, and architecture technicians David Benton, The Catholic University of America; Edward Byrdy, The Catholic University of America; Irwin J. Gueco, The Catholic University of America; and Clara Albert, US/ICOMOS architect from the Transylvania Trust. The project historian, and author of the written reports, was William Lebovich, architectural historian, Chevy Chase, Maryland. The photography was undertaken by Jack E. Boucher, HABS staff photographer, and James Rosenthal, photographic assistant.